

Part of

Education and childcare during coronavirus



Guidance

Centre responsibility for autumn GCSE, AS and A level exam series: guidance

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Contents

Background

1. Who is responsible for entering the candidate for exams in the additional series
2. 16 to 19 funding: maths and English condition of funding

Background

Following the cancellation of summer GCSE, AS and A level exams, the exam boards will be providing students with calculated grades, wherever possible, on:

- 13 August for A and AS levels
- 20 August for GCSEs

These grades will have the same value as grades in previous years and the vast majority of students will be able to use them to progress on to their next steps.

As the Secretary of State for Education [announced on 23 March](#), there will be an opportunity for students to sit exams as soon as possible after schools and colleges reopen (referred to here as ‘the additional series’). These exams will act as a backstop to the summer arrangements, students will be able to sit them if they feel they could have demonstrated improved performance in an exam or if they need an improved result to progress onto the next stage of their education. There will also be a small group of students for whom there is not enough evidence for a calculated grade to be derived in the summer and it is particularly important that these students are able to achieve grades through the additional exam series.

To provide clarity on the exam entry arrangements for centres and students, this guidance sets out DfE’s expectations in relation to which centres should be responsible for entering candidates for these exams. We are making this guidance available now so that it can be read alongside Ofqual’s consultation on [an additional GCSE, AS and A level exam series in autumn 2020](#), which proposes that exams should be available in all subjects in the additional series, so long as there are students who wish to take them.

The exam boards and DfE are exploring ways in which it might be possible to minimise additional burdens on centres, whilst ensuring that exams remain accessible for students and we will provide further information on this.

1. Who is responsible for entering the candidate for exams in the additional series

In most cases, students will use their calculated grade to move onto their next step. In cases where students wish to sit exams in the additional series, and with the exception below in relation to the condition of funding maths and English language GCSEs, the centre which entered them in the summer should be responsible for entering them for those exams. In the great majority of cases, the school/college which the student attended will know the candidate, will have existing links with the relevant exam board and will be aware of any reasonable adjustments that are needed. We know that students and centres will want to discuss the best next steps when results are released in August. In most cases students will be able to use their calculated grades to progress and centres will provide them with advice on this.

We expect centres to extend these arrangements to private candidates (candidates who were not on roll but for whom the centre had made summer exam entries by 20 March), as well as for students who were on their roll in the summer. Continuity will be especially important for some private candidates since it is more likely that there will not have been enough evidence to provide them with a calculated grade and the additional exam series will be essential for their progression.

We appreciate that there will be cases where students and centres will want to agree different local arrangements between themselves. This will often be sensible – for example where a student has moved and it is a better experience and more practical for them to sit the exams at the new centre. However, our expectation is that the original centre should take overall responsibility for ensuring that the candidate has somewhere appropriate to sit their exams.

2. 16 to 19 funding: maths and English condition of funding

Information for institutions on maths and English condition of funding can be found at [16 to 19 funding: maths and English condition of funding](#). Arrangements for these students will remain unchanged.

The centre where the student is on roll from September will, therefore, continue to be responsible for entering them for the compliant qualifications.

Where students receive a calculated grade of 4 or above in maths/English in August and wish to take exams in the autumn, the centre which was due to enter them in the summer should enter them for those exams.

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